



# By

# Mark McGee



# Chapters

Introduction	5
Winsome Persuasion	7
Last Call For Liberty	21
How Reason Can Lead To God	29



# Introduction

I began recommending Christian books to students decades ago for the purpose of helping them know about some of the better resources available to them. Many of the books were about Bible study, theology, discipleship, Church history and apologetics. The response was almost always positive, so I decided to review books online to help even more students know about books that would both inform and challenge. Most of the books I review are new or of recent origin.

*Book Review Volume V* is the fifth in a series about books on the primary subject of “Apologetics” on [FaithandSelfDefense.com](http://FaithandSelfDefense.com). Another series you may find helpful is *A Reading Plan For Christian Apologists*, also on [FaithandSelfDefense.com](http://FaithandSelfDefense.com).

Our hope is that you will find books you can add to your Christian library — books that will become your friends and allies as you grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.





*Winsome Persuasion: Christian Influence in a Post-Christian World* (IVP Academic, 2017) by Tim Muehlhoff and Richard Langer is an important book for Christian apologists and any Christians who want to have impactful spiritual conversations with family, friends, neighbors and people they meet in their community.

The subtitle of the book, *Christian Influence in a Post-Christian World*, lays out for the reader the importance of Christians who want to persuade their friends and family about the Gospel that they will be doing that in a world that is “post-Christian.”

The primary title reminds us all that our persuasion should be “winsome.”

The authors present their argument for persuading people about Christianity in a logical and orderly fashion –

- Part I: Laying a Theoretical Foundation
- Part II: Engaging Others
- Part III: Pressing Questions for Christian Counterpublics

“In the first part we discuss key components and theories that define and describe a counterpublic ... Part two takes the theories and concepts of previous chapters and applies them to engaging other people ... Part three considers current challenge facing Christian counterpublics.”  
Introduction, pp 7-8

What do the authors mean by *counterpublic*?

“What happens when communities working off differing maps clash? Often the result is that a ‘dominant public tends to emerge, one that has the strength to translate its beliefs into actions affecting even people who do not share its beliefs.’ What allows one public to become dominant relates to a key distinction between weak and strong publics.



Communication theorist Nancy Fraser defines weak publics as groups that exclusively engage in opinion formation and lack the ability to make policy decisions. In contrast, a strong public participates in identity formation but also has decision-making power ... Communication scholar Daniel Brouwer identifies three characteristics of all counterpublics: opposition, withdrawal, and engagement.” pp 16-17

Before we spend too much more time feeling sorry for ourselves as “post-Christian” Christians, let’s remember that Christianity was born in a culture that was immediately opposed to the life and message of Jesus Christ. Christians in the early centuries of Christianity became experts in using winsome persuasion to convince hundreds of thousands of people of the truth of the Gospel. We can do it again!

There is much more I could share with you about *Winsome Persuasion*, but I’ll close here by inviting you to read this book. It could change the way we look at our “lot” in life as Christians in a “post-Christian” world and how we can persuade others through the logic and love of our Lord Jesus Christ.

## From the Publisher

How are Christians viewed in the broader culture?

We blush at the possibilities. Brainwashed fanatics? Out-of-touch dogmatists? Buffoons?

The task of bearing faithful witness to Jesus is complicated by persistent—and not altogether baseless—cultural stereotypes. In our post-Christian society, thoughtful Christians are considering again how to engage the dominant culture as a minority, a counterpublic, amid varying perceptions and misperceptions.

In this timely book, Timothy Muehlhoff and Rick Langer ask what our interactions with the dominant cultural ethos should look like. How might we be persuasive and civil at the same time? How should we respond to those who ridicule and caricature us? How can we challenge the beliefs of other communities with love and respect?

Muehlhoff and Langer present a model for cultural engagement that integrates communication theory, theology, and Scripture. Penetrating, wise, and relentlessly practical, it includes test cases and examples from history, such as William Wilberforce and Harriet Beecher Stowe.

Now more than ever, Christians need what *Winsome Persuasion* offers: a compelling vision of public engagement that is both shrewd and gracious.

## About the Authors

Tim Muehlhoff (PhD, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) is a professor of communication at Biola University in La Mirada, California, where he teaches classes in family communication, interpersonal communication, persuasion, and gender. He is the author of *I Beg to Differ and Marriage Forecasting*, and the coauthor of *The God Conversation*, *Authentic Communication*, and *Winsome Persuasion*, which received a 2018 Christianity Today book award in apologetics/evangelism.

Richard Langer (PhD, University of California, Riverside) is professor of biblical and theological studies at Talbot School of Theology and director of the Office for the Integration of Faith and Learning at Biola University. Specializing in the areas of theological integration, moral philosophy, bioethics, political philosophy, and philosophy of religion, he has also taught at Trinity International University and the University of California. An ordained minister, Langer previously served as senior associate pastor of Trinity Evangelical Free Church in Redlands, California, and as a missionary with Campus Crusade for Christ. He also speaks at seminars and conferences around the country and is a board member for Forest Home Ministries. He has served on the boards for Building a Generation, the Southwest District of the Evangelical Free Church of America, and the Internal Review for Research Protocols at Loma Linda University Medical Center. Additionally, he won Biola University's Provost Award for Excellence in Theological Integration in 2008. Langer has contributed articles to publications such as the Journal of Spiritual Formation and Soul Care,

Christian Higher Education, the Journal of Psychology and Theology, Philosophia Christi, and the Journal of the Christian Institute for Disabilities.

## Reviews

“In a world marked more by incivility and talking past each other than respectful engagement, *Winsome Persuasion* is a refreshing consideration of how to pursue genuine engagement with those with whom we may have deep ideological and theological differences. Tim Muehlhoff and Richard Langer speak not just from a theoretical perspective but from the lived experience of engaging those with opposing views as bearing the imago Dei—the image of God—and therefore being worthy to be seen as our neighbors, to be treated with dignity and respect. This is a great resource for all of us seeking to be the presence of Christ in the world.” Carol A. Taylor, president of Evangel University

“After more than twenty-five years of working with college students in campus ministry, I would argue that students living in a ‘post-discourse’ society need all the help they can get with learning to engage others in meaningful discussion—and not just students, but everyone who desires connections with other humans that go beneath the surface. Read this book as a prayer for change in your own life and in the lives of our communities.” Ed Uszynski, *Athletes in Action*, Cru

“Looking for a manual on winning arguments and scoring points in the current cultural debates? Keep looking! Winsome Persuasion is not the culture warrior’s guide to winning. If, however, you hope to learn how to listen well and be heard, how to speak truth irenically, with more light than heat, keep reading. Deeply rooted in contemporary communication theory and ancient biblical wisdom, this excellent work is a wise and effective guide to speaking truth in love. For anyone who hopes to be truly persuasive in our polarized context, Muehlhoff and Langer serve as faithful guides to the work that’s required to gain a hearing, to speak effectively, and to create the best possible relational environment for our words to have an impact.” J. Michael Thigpen, executive director of the Evangelical Theological Society, associate professor of Old Testament and Semitics, Talbot School of Theology, Biola University

“Muehlhoff and Langer have produced a book well worth the time of any Christian who wants to be real salt and light in a difficult, pluralistic world. To be sure, not only is Winsome Persuasion grounded wonderfully in the Scriptures and current communication theory, but the writing is crisp, the examples and illustrations are entrancing, and the usefulness is immediate and profound. This is the perfect book for church leaders and thoughtful laypersons to read and study together.” Craig J. Hazen, director of the graduate program in Christian apologetics, Biola University, author of *Five Sacred Crossings*

“This is an amazing book! Muehlhoff and Langer merge the best of rhetorical theory, biblical witness, and the stories of caring members in Christian counterpublics who have transformed their communities. It’s not a book for those who argue, accuse, or insist that ‘my way is Yahweh.’ Instead, the authors model what they advocate: winsome persuasion.” Em Griffin, author of *A First Look at Communication Theory*

“Winsome Persuasion could not be a more timely book! In our increasingly hostile and fractured world, followers of Jesus are needed who embrace their role as peacemakers and ministers of reconciliation. But how? Muehlhoff and Langer are incredibly helpful in that regard. This book shows us what cultural engagement can look like; wise, honest, compassionate, and helpful discourse is more important now than ever. Weaving together strands of multiple disciplines, Winsome Persuasion is a rare book that more than delivers on its title. Highly, highly recommended.” Mike Erre, author of *Astonished*

“The American public square is now more cantankerous and less civil than perhaps any time in the modern era. How should a Christian live and speak hope without merely adding more noise? Muehlhoff and Langer’s book Winsome Persuasion casts a positive vision for a way forward and indeed models it. This is a book whose time has come.” Jonathan Merritt, contributing writer for The Atlantic, author of *Jesus Is Better Than You Imagined*

“In this age of shrill and often hateful public rhetoric, Muehlhoff and Langer’s *Winsome Persuasion* is a breath of fresh air; wise, warm-hearted, and well researched, its advice for speaking Christianly in the public square could not be more timely.” Thomas M. Crisp, professor of philosophy, Biola University

“Following the presidential election of 2016, it was declared that we are now living in a ‘post-truth’ world. With the dominance of social media where echo chambers are nearly unavoidable and the rise of ‘fake news’—which once would have been cast aside as nothing more than a gossip rag—is being used as evidence to support belief claims, what do people who claim absolute truth do to maintain active participation in the culture while maintaining a level of personal integrity that does not feed into the worst of stereotypes? In *Winsome Persuasion*, Tim Muehlhoff and Rick Langer present both the challenge and a plan for how Christians can regain credibility and speak persuasively into a world that they no longer recognize as their own. This is not a book that just lays out a problem and provides lament to the believer. Rather, it’s a strategy for action. Christians do not have to be victims of an increasingly secular society, nor do we have to become the angry, hate-filled rhetors we have been portrayed to be. How we talk about the issues of our day matters. If we as Christians want to be more than political and social pawns, engaging in winsome persuasion may be the best way to present the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ while creating space to be heard and taken seriously.” Joy E. A. Qualls, chair, department of communication studies, Biola University

“Winsome Persuasion paints an intricately detailed picture of an American public square growing more and more fragmented and frustrated as her citizens entrench themselves along ideological lines. Far from leaving us in despair, though, Muehlhoff and Langer offer incisive exhortations to Christian communities to strive to heal our national divides through Christlike compassion and countercultural communication.” John W. Yates II, rector, The Falls Church Anglican

“How does a book live up to the title Winsome Persuasion? You’re looking at it! Muehlhoff and Langer’s new book models the very thing they wish to teach. Demonstrating a refreshingly relevant knowledge of culture, it’s both informative and inspirational. For anyone who loves Jesus and wants the tools to effectively share him with a post-Christian world this is a must-read!” Andy Steiger, founder and director of Apologetics Canada

“Winsome Persuasion is a timely and masterful book. Tim and Rick provide insightful and practical steps for Christians to communicate more effectively in our ‘argument culture.’ They use a delightful combination of statistics, personal examples, stories, and interactive dialogue to engage readers along the way. I hope and pray this book will receive the wide readership it deserves.” Sean McDowell, professor, Biola University, popular speaker, author of over fifteen books, including *A New Kind of Apologist*



“I write this as I approach my sixty-ninth birthday. I’ve seen a lot—the sexual revolution, the Jesus movement, the civil rights struggle. However, if you had told me twenty years ago that American culture, values, and life would look like it does today, I would not have believed it. The social, moral, religious, and political fabric has been rent asunder. This raises the question: How can we Christians best serve Jesus today and honor him in the way we communicate our ideas to the broader public? On the one hand, we do not want to compromise biblical teaching. On the other hand, we want to be wise and Christlike in the way we approach people. But how? In my view, Muehlhoff and Langer have written the best book by far to guide us in these tricky waters. You don’t have to agree with everything they say (that’s part of the content of the book!) to recognize that this is a must-read. I know of no other book remotely like it. Please get a copy and discuss its ideas with your friends. Failure to do so will jeopardize our mission in the decades to come.” J. P. Moreland, distinguished professor, Talbot School of Theology, Biola University, author of *Love Your God with All Your Mind*

“The majority of our culture sees engaging in difficult or controversial discussions of our core beliefs as fraught with peril rather than opportunities by which we can refine our understanding of the truth and give due honor to the viewpoints of others. In their excellent book *Winsome Persuasion*, Langer and Muehlhoff call us back as Christians to the art of conversation and the necessity of humble disagreement. This book both theoretically and practically lays the groundwork needed to equip Christians to engage in this fundamentally important task.” Paul

Spears, director of the Torrey Honors Institute at Biola University, author of *Education for Human Flourishing*

“You can’t read this book without being challenged and inspired. Challenged to reevaluate taken-for-granted assumptions about the proper role of conflict and persuasion in faithful Christian communication. And inspired to avoid becoming a freewheeling bombast in a culture already bogged down by ideological division, sloganeering, and incivility. Muehlhoff and Langer remind us that Christians must engage in a biblically based, other-oriented thinking that challenges individual and institutional self-righteousness. In practical ways, the authors help readers understand how they can practice an invitational form of rhetoric that both preserves biblical truth and cultivates societal neighborliness, supporting all individuals in times of relational crisis. In final analysis, their work provides us with a means of asking the deeper questions about the human condition and reminds us that all human beings are created in the image of God and are therefore deserving of dignity and respect.” Robert H. Woods Jr, Spring Arbor University, founder of Christianity Communication Studies Network, author of *Prophetically Incorrect*

“If we’re going to engage the public effectively on LGBT issues—or other hotly contested social issues—we need to think through the kinds of issues Winsome Persuasion so deftly examines.” George P. Wood, Influence Magazine, June 2017

“Too many books simply make assumptions about secular modern culture and about the way that we need to respond. Muehlhoff and Langer take the necessary step of analyzing the way that culture works, especially with regard to media and social issues, and their deft analysis generates significant insights. The authors apply orthodox Christian principles to hot-button issues without being shrill or partisan. In so doing, they model what the book strives to teach.” Holly Ordway, Christianity Today, December 13, 2017

*Winsome Persuasion: Christian Influence in a Post-Christian World* (IVP Academic, 2017, 192 pages)





*Last Call for Liberty: How America's Genius for Freedom Has Become Its Greatest Threat* by Os Guinness (IVP Books, 2018) is an important read for anyone who cares about freedom.

Os Guinness is the author or editor of more than thirty books. FaithandSelfDefense has reviewed some of them in the past. Guinness is a frequent speaker and prominent social critic and a senior fellow at the Oxford Centre for Christian Apologetics. He is also the founder of the Trinity Forum.

I found *Last Call For Liberty* to be a fascinating read. Guinness' introduction is an attention grabber with statements that read as if he had taken them from the headlines of the morning newspaper or evening cable TV programs –

“The great American republic is in the throes of its gravest crisis since the Civil War, a crisis that threatens its greatness, its freedom, and its character.”

“The problem is not America against the world, or the world against America, but America against itself, citizens against citizens, government against citizens, one president against another president, and one view of America in radical opposition to another.”

“Political debate has degenerated into degrading and barbaric incivility, and wild talk of spying, leaking, impeachment, governability, the Twenty-fifth Amendment, and even assassination and secession is in the air.”

“America is locked in a mortal struggle for what each side believes is the soul of the republic.”

One of the key insights that helps make *Last Call For Liberty* different than other books looking at the challenges we face in the United States is this –

“At the core, the deepest division is rooted in the differences between two world-changing and opposing revolutions, the American Revolution of 1776 and the French Revolution of 1789, and their rival views of freedom and the nature of the American experiment.”

Guinness asks and answers ten important questions in *Last Call For Liberty* –

- Question One: Do You Know Where Your Freedom Came From?
- Question Two: Are There Enough Americans Who Care About Freedom?
- Question Three: What Do You Mean by Freedom?
- Question Four: Have You Faced Up to the Central Paradox of Freedom?
- Question Five: How Do You Plan to Sustain Freedom?
- Question Six: How Will You Make the World Safe for Diversity?
- Question Seven: How Do You Justify Your Vision of a Free and Open Society?
- Question Eight: Where Do You Ground Your Faith in Human Freedom?
- Question Nine: Are You Vigilant About the Institutions Crucial to Freedom? A Republic or a Democracy?
- Question Ten: Are You Vigilant About the Ideas Crucial to Freedom? Which Revolution Do They Serve?

One of the highlights was the question about a clear definition of 'freedom.' I especially like the insights concerning negative freedom and positive freedom.

I highly recommend *Last Call For Liberty* to all citizens of the United States and those around the world who look to us to wave the flag of unrivaled freedom.

## From the Publisher

"The hour is critical. The American republic is suffering its gravest crisis since the Civil War. Conflicts, hostility, and incivility now threaten to tear the country apart. Competing visions have led to a dangerous moment of cultural self-destruction. This is no longer politics as usual, but an era of political warfare where our enemies are not foreign adversaries, but our fellow citizens.

Yet the roots of the crisis are deeper than many realize. Os Guinness argues that we face a fundamental crisis of freedom, as America's genius for freedom has become her Achilles' heel. Our society's conflicts are rooted in two rival views of freedom, one embodied in "1776" and the ideals of the American Revolution, and the other in "1789" and the ideals of the French Revolution. Once again America has become a house divided, and Americans must make up their minds as to which freedom to follow. Will the constitutional republic be restored or replaced?



This grand treatment of history, civics, and ethics in the Jewish and Christian traditions represents Guinness's definitive exploration of the prospects for human freedom today. He calls for a national conversation on the nature of freedom, and poses key questions for concerned citizens to consider as we face a critical chapter in the American story. He offers readers a checklist by which they can assess the character and consequences of the freedoms they are choosing.

In the tradition of Alexis de Tocqueville, Guinness provides a visitor's careful observation of the American experiment. Discover here a stirring vision for faithful citizenship and renewed responsibility for not only the nation but also the watching world."

## Reviews

"It will be a tragedy of inestimable proportions for the American people if that great nation eats its own legendary commitment to freedom from within. Equally, to lose the leadership of the world's most powerful champion of liberty would be truly dangerous for non-Americans everywhere in these increasingly unsettled times. Os Guinness has gifted us magnificently with the insights and understanding of a lifetime in this book, which really needs to be read—urgently—across the length and breadth of the world." John Anderson, deputy prime minister of Australia, 1999-2005

“Os Guinness has stood as a beacon of eloquence and insight. In a host of important books, he has chronicled the struggle of those who resist the modern world’s descent into carnival culture. *Last Call for Liberty* is his masterwork—an urgent guide that leads out of the maze America has wandered into. For those who seek to understand the best of freedom’s vital gifts, Guinness is the master class leader.” Shelby Coffey III, vice chairman of the Newseum, former editor of the Los Angeles Times

“A timely and important book from one of the most insightful observers of American society and politics. Guinness argues that America’s future depends on learning the right lessons from America’s past. Provocative without being incendiary. Sobering without being gloomy. Inspiring without being glib.” Peter Feaver, professor of political science at Duke University

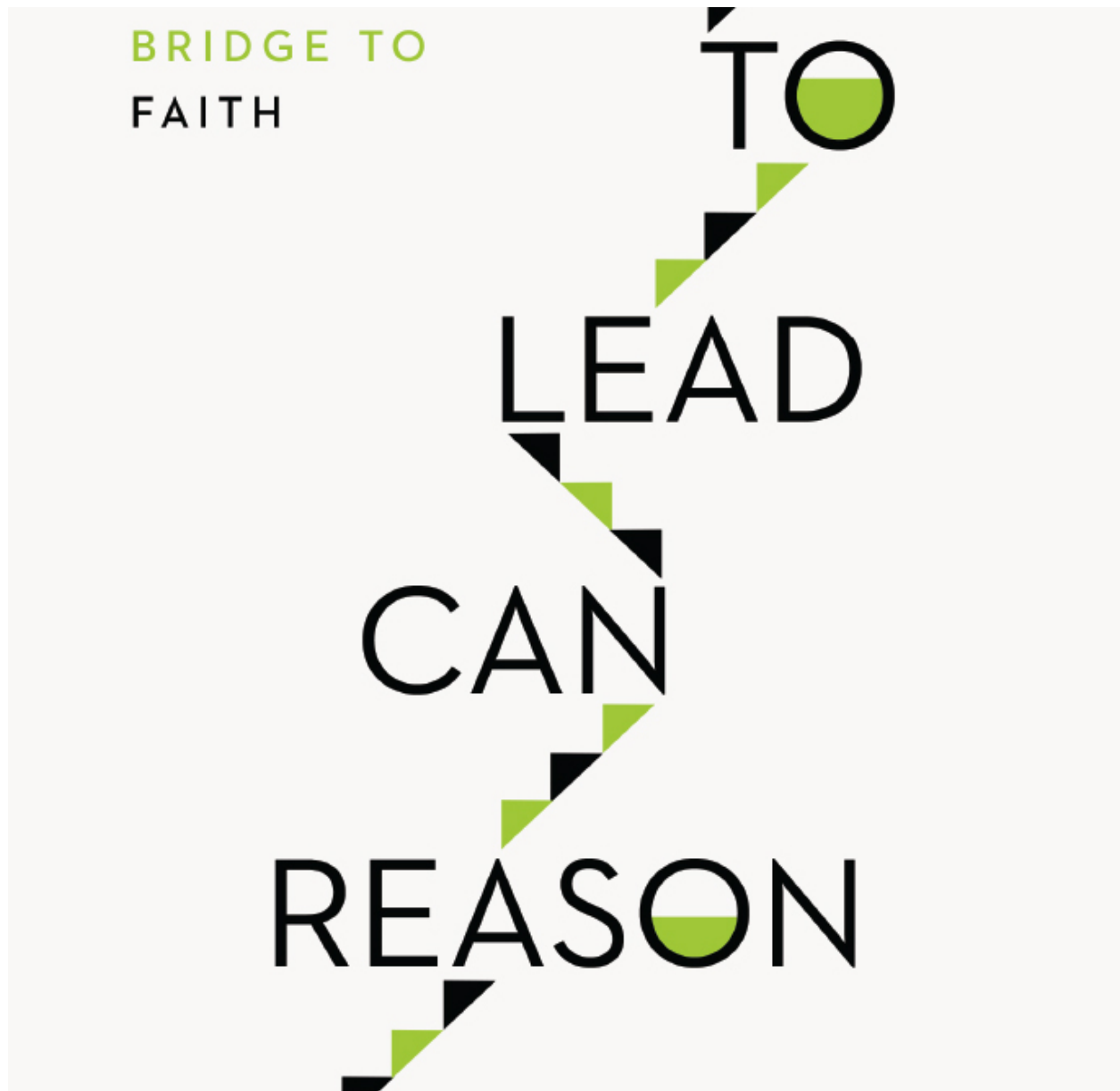
“If you care about the future of America—no matter where you are on the political spectrum—then do yourself a favor and read this book. I believe you will be encouraged to look at America in a new light, and hopefully all who love her will find a new energy to make her healthy again and keep her strong. Freedom-loving people everywhere will be grateful you did.” John Brandon, former vice president of international, Apple Inc.

“With moral clarity and a deep sense of history, Os Guinness discerns the taproot of America’s republican achievement as well as the forces that threaten to tear it asunder. In this penetrating critique of American democracy, Guinness emerges as the English voice of Alexis de Tocqueville—and not a moment too soon. Perhaps only an Englishman could deliver such a powerful reminder to Americans about why their revolution in human liberty has succeeded where others have failed. Against the prophets of gloom, *Last Call for Liberty* charts a pathway toward American renewal rooted in a bracing vision of human freedom.” Joseph Loconte, associate professor of history at the King’s College in New York City, author of *God, Locke, and Liberty: The Struggle for Religious Freedom in the West*

“Guinness’s impassioned tone, complex arguments, and dire warnings are sure to start conversations among readers interested in the intersection of politics and religion in America.” Publishers Weekly, August 27, 2018

*Last Call for Liberty: How America’s Genius for Freedom Has Become Its Greatest Threat* by Os Guinness (IVP Books, 2018, 336 pages)





*How Reason Can Lead To God: A Philosopher's Bridge To Faith* (Joshua Rasmussen, IPV Academic, 2019) is a must-read for Christian apologists and anyone who wants to improve how they think and talk with people about the existence of God.

Joshua Rasmussen (PhD, Notre Dame) is an associate professor of philosophy at Azusa Pacific University in Azusa, California. He is also the author of *Defending the Correspondence Theory of Truth and Necessary Existence*.

Rasmussen writes as someone who has struggled with the idea of God's existence and purpose in life. His struggle led him to investigate truth and that led him to a strong and evidential belief in God. As he wrote in his book, "My aim is to use reason to secure a path to truth." (p 16)

Rasmussen used a thinking process he calls "The Bridge of Reason." He presented the idea of building supports for the the 'bridge' beginning with a foundation. He called that "The Foundation Theory."

"The basic components of our bridge install the Foundation Theory. The Foundation Theory is what it sounds like: there is a foundation to things. Like a stack of bricks that rests upon the ground, the stack of dependent things rests ultimately upon an independent foundation." p 33

Rasmussen's theory is based on the supporting beams of –

- Independence
- Necessity
- Ultimacy

Rasmussen used nine tests that “probe and push upon the foundational materials.” He said the tests from question, comments and objections he has encountered in journal articles, books, academic halls and the Internet during the last 20 years. Rasmussen said his aim was “to provide a better sense of the integrity and nature of the bridge.”

## Logic and Reason

I especially enjoyed Rasmussen’s emphasis on logic and reason throughout his book. Skeptics and scoffers often accuse Christians of being illogical and unreasonable in their thinking. They mock Christians for lacking “critical thinking skills.”

Rasmussen used the tool of reason to build steps “to an ultimate foundation of things” in his book. That’s refreshing to read. He used three reason-based tools in the process –

- Simplicity
- Explanatory depth
- Uniformity

“Each tool will independently reveal the same thing from a different angle. Each tool has its own power, which we can use to construct the next step.” p 61

*How Reason Can Lead To God* is one of the best books about philosophy from a Christian perspective that I've read in some time. I encourage you to get a copy of this short book (208 pages), read it carefully, make notes and ask God to help you as you share Christ with unbelievers He brings into your life.

## Contents

Preface

Acknowledgments

1. When Reason Leads to Doubt
2. The Bridge of Reason
3. The Foundation Theory
4. Testing Ground
5. Eternal Power
6. Purely Actual
7. Foundation of Mind
8. Foundation of Matter
9. Foundation of Morals
10. Foundation of Reason
11. Perfect Foundation
12. Challenging the Bridge
13. Removing Barriers
14. On the Other Side of the Bridge

Bibliography

Index



## From the Publisher

“Do you seek the truth?

Do you value reason, science, and independent thinking? Are you skeptical of beliefs that people maintain merely ‘on faith,’ yet you remain interested in the big questions of life? Do you hope there could be a greater purpose to the universe, if only that were realistic?

If so, then philosopher Joshua Rasmussen can encourage you in your journey. Beginning with his own story of losing faith and the belief in any ultimate purpose in life, he then builds a bridge to a series of universal truths about ultimate reality. Using only the instruments of reason and common experience, Rasmussen constructs a pathway—step by step, brick by brick—that he argues can lead to meaning and, ultimately, a vision of God.”

## Reviews

“Rasmussen’s book is destined to be a modern classic. Rasmussen combines simplicity, clarity, and depth to an extraordinary degree, resulting in a book that makes some of the most advanced work in contemporary philosophical theology accessible to the general reader, without sacrificing any logical precision. Rasmussen’s style is winsome and engaging, drawing the reader into a thrilling adventure of metaphysical investigation of the existence and nature of reality’s

ultimate foundation.” Robert Koons, professor of philosophy, University of Texas at Austin

“This short book contains a bold, original, and provocative argument that shows how reason can lead a person who is genuinely seeking truth to God. It is written in simple, ordinary language and makes no appeal to authority. Although Rasmussen appeals only to truths that he thinks should be universally accepted, a good deal of the force of the book stems from the personal story of Rasmussen himself; his courage and honesty draw the reader into a similar journey.” C. Stephen Evans, university professor of philosophy and humanities, Baylor University

“How Reason Can Lead to God is beautifully written. It is truly exceptional in its clarity and simplicity of prose. While some concepts and arguments may be difficult to digest, the interested reader, up for a rigorous, intellectual workout, will be very richly rewarded. Engaging. Humble. Winsome. Rasmussen strikes just the right tone given the aim(s) of the book. A real gem!” Kevin Corcoran, professor of philosophy, Calvin College

“Rasmussen provides a masterpiece argument for God. He delivers every step in a clear and engaging style. Powerful. Beautiful. Transformative.” William Lane Craig, professor of philosophy, Talbot School of Theology and Houston Baptist University, coauthor of *Philosophical Foundations for a Christian Worldview*

“Rasmussen’s superb and unique book provides arguments that are deep, convincing, expressed with admirable clarity, and informed by the very latest in philosophical thought.” Alexander R. Pruss, director of graduate studies and professor, department of philosophy, Baylor University

“Professor Rasmussen is a top Christian philosopher, a deeply devoted believer, and a longtime personal friend. He identifies his primary audience as a skeptic who cares about truth, is interested in life’s big questions, and believes only what can be supported by reason. And Rasmussen hits the bull’s-eye. Along with *Mere Christianity*, *How Reason Can Lead to God* is the book to give to such a person. But don’t let this aim fool you. This book is a must-read for believers who love philosophy or apologetics. You will learn a ton by reading this book, and by reading it your ability to think will be vastly increased. The flow of Rasmussen’s argument for God is developed with such precision and care that, quite frankly, it could not be improved. I am so excited about *How Reason Can Lead to God* and can’t wait to see its impact. So put on your thinking hat, buy it, and study it carefully.” J. P. Moreland, distinguished professor of philosophy, Talbot School of Theology, Biola University, author of *Scientism and Secularism*

“How Reason Can Lead to God is an extraordinary book. Rasmussen builds, piece by piece, a bridge from the basic structures of reality to God. This work is meticulously structured. Rasmussen’s writing style fits perfectly with the project. He is clear, careful, and patient. He never jumps to a conclusion. He considers objections fairly and engages them thoughtfully. This is simply the best philosophical defense of theism I have read in a long while. But, it is more than a defense of theism. It is a guided tour through the foundations of metaphysics.” Gregory E. Ganssle, professor of philosophy at Biola University, author of *Our Deepest Desires: How the Christian Story Fulfills Human Aspiration*

“A magnificent and prodigious talent as deft in analytic skill as he is adept at uncommon common sense, Joshua Rasmussen has produced a disarming, brilliant, bridge-building book that renders the recondite accessible. It takes readers on a fascinating journey, inviting them to think for themselves, try out his arguments, and come to their own conclusions. He is a remarkable philosopher in the best and old-fashioned sense: respecting his readers; asking vitally important, existentially central questions; rigorously following the evidence where it leads; animated by deep confidence in the revelatory power of reason to show the way. Any genuine seeker of wisdom and truth will find in these pages an eminent kindred spirit and faithful fellow traveler.” David Baggett, coauthor of *The Morals of the Story: Good News About a Good God*

*How Reason Can Lead To God: A Philosopher’s Bridge To Faith* (Joshua Rasmussen, IPV Academic, 2019, 208 pages)

